

A protective layer (7) which is relatively permeable for CO₂ and relatively impermeable for SO₂ is designed so as to yield a reduced penetration time for CO₂ molecules.

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The protective layer (7) is composed of a gas-permeable carrier (10) made of a material which is resistant to sulfuric acid media such as SO_2 and SO_3 , has a surface (8) that can be exposed to a gas and is provided with an oxidizing agent whose oxidation potential is sufficient to oxidize SO_2 .

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(Figure 1)

[The page contains faint, illegible markings or bleed-through from the reverse side.]